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Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I believe that the antitrust case against Microsoft was inappropriate from its very inception and that the government should not have interfered with one of our country's most successful and innovative private businesses on the basis represented by the antitrust suit. I am pleased that the Justice Department has finally decided to reach a settlement in this case. It has been three long years.

Microsoft has given up a lot in this settlement. It has agreed to make future versions of Windows easier to use non-Microsoft software, and it has agreed to disclose a lot of information on the internal operating system, which is a first as far as I know.

I am certainly happy that government has decided to limit its involvement in Microsoft's business affairs, at least for now. I hope that continues to be so. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Fields